

## Message Text

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60

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 A-01 /014 W

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R 171554Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2928

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2721

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, ALLOW, ASCH

SUBJ: ALLOWANCES: EDUCATION ALLOWANCES - DESIGNATION OF US  
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SCHOOLS

REF: STATE A-2163

1. REQUIREMENT THAT CHILDREN OF USG EMPLOYEES AT POST ATTEND  
SECONDARY GRADES AT DESIGNATED SCHOOL (OR FORFEIT ALLOWANCE)  
HAS CAUSED DEEP CONCERN IN AFSA SANTIAGO CHAPTER, AND DRAWN  
INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME PARENTS ARE CONSIDERING RECOURSE  
TO FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES IF POLICY IS NOT REVERSED OR  
MORE CONVINCING REASONS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION OFFERED.

2. INDICATION OF IMPACT OF REQUIREMENT IS ILLUSTRATED BY  
FACT THAT OF TOTAL OF 109 DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF MISSION, ONLY  
40 OR 37 PC NOW ATTEND "DESIGNATED" SCHOOL. OF 72 CHILDREN  
ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 8TH GRADE, 55 ATTEND SCHOOLS  
OTHER THAN DESIGNATED SANTIAGO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. OF 37  
CHILDREN ENROLLED IN 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADES, 14 ATTEND OTHER  
SCHOOLS.

3. DEPENDENT SCHOOLING SITUATION HAS BEEN MATTER OF UNUSUAL  
CONCERN AND CONTROVERSY AT THIS POST FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND  
THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION WITH SANTIAGO  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. THIS IS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY ENROLLMENT  
FIGURES SHOWN IN PARA 2, AND IS WELL-KNOWN TO A/OS STAFF.  
MANY MISSION PARENTS FEEL THERE IS AT LEAST ONE ATTRACTIVE  
LOCAL ALTERNATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. PARENTS FEEL  
TRADITIONAL FREEDOM OF EMPLOYEE TO USE EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCE  
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TO SEND DEPENDENT CHILDREN TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIS CHOICE HAS

BEEN ARBITRARILY NEGATED.

4. TYPICAL OF QUESTIONS BEING RAISED ARE:

A. WHAT IS WORLD-WIDE POLICY ON SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS OF THIS SORT? IS IT CORRECT THAT FREE CHOICE OF SCHOOLS IS ALLOWED AT SOME POSTS WHICH HAVE USG-SPONSORED SCHOOLS, WHILE NOT AT OTHERS?

B. WHAT IS RATIONALE FOR PERMITTING FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN SOME GRADES AND NOT OTHERS? IS THIS ACTION FORECAST OF FUTURE REQUIREMENT THAT CHILDREN AT ALL GRADES ATTEND DESIGNATED SCHOOL?

C. HOW DOES DECISION AFFECT ALLOWANCES OF PARENT WHO WISHES TO SEND CHILD TO THIRD COUNTRY OR TO US FOR SCHOOLING AT SECONDARY LEVEL, WHO NOW DRAWS LOCAL EDUCATION ALLOWANCE?

5. IT APPEARS THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF EMPLOYEE PARENTS AT POST, PERHAPS A MAJORITY, OPPOSE AND FEEL THEMSELVES INJURED BY THIS REQUIREMENT. EMBASSY REQUESTS EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE DETAILING RATIONALE FOR DECISION AND PROVIDING JUSTIFICATION WHICH CAN BE USED TO EXPLAIN CHANGE TO EMPLOYEES. ALTERNATIVE OF REVOCATION OF DECISION AND CONTINUATION OF SYSTEM OF FREE CHOICE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE WELCOMED BY MANY EMPLOYEES.  
POPPER

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**TAGS:** ALLOW, ASCH, CI  
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